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**ABSTRACT**

A method for calibrating a surveying instrument is disclosed, the survey instrument comprising a base element and a camera with an image sensor, the camera being rotatable about a vertical axis fixed with respect to said base element and being rotatable about a tilting axis, the tilting axis being rotated about the vertical axis with rotation of the camera about the vertical axis. In the method, data associated with calibration points and images of the calibration points on the image sensor captured in different faces are used, the data for each of said calibration points comprising distance data and the data for each of the images of each said calibration point comprising image position data and orientation data. Further, on the basis of the distance data for each of the calibration points and the image position and orientation data for each of the images of the calibration points the surveying instrument is calibrated simultaneously taking into account at least one optical property of the camera and at least one of the relative orientation of the vertical axis and the tilting axis and the orientation of the camera relative to one of the base element, the vertical axis and the tilting axis.